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*John. T. Tennyson*  
*for*  
*J. C. C. C.*  
REPORTS

OF

THE SELECTMEN

AND

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF WEBSTER.

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1863.

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CONCORD:  
PRINTED BY MCFARLAND & JENKS.  
1863.

1891  
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## REPORT.

### RECEIPTS.

Received of former selectmen,	\$4.93
D. E. Burbank, on collection of 1861,	96.41
S. B. Little, money hired,	585.00
State Treasurer, literary fund,	59.94
D. E. Burbank, on collection of 1862,	925.70
State Treasurer, aid to families of volunteers,	242.91
George Little, money hired,	200.00
John Sanborn, " "	300.00
John Sanborn, Jr., " "	80.00
Albe C. Sweatt, " "	70.00
Mary J. Sweatt, " "	130.00
George S. Roby, " "	90.00
Hamilton P. Corser, " "	100.00
Phebe Noyes, " "	60.00
Franklin A. Shepard, " "	900.00
Emeline S. Jeffers, " "	125.00
Hannah C. Smith, " "	100.00
Willard W. Jones, " "	100.00
Abner Sargent, " "	75.00
Sarah J. Gerrish, " "	100.00
Jesse D. Sanborn, " "	300.00
State Treasurer, railroad money,	99.58
Wyatt B. Whittier, money hired,	100.00
County, support of paupers,	124.67
Atherton Sweatt, liquor agency,	41.25
Thomas Kilborn, collection, 1862,	1458.62
S. B. Little, money hired,	300.00
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	\$6,769.01



## EXPENDITURES.

*Outstanding Bills.*

Paid Edward Buxton, superintending schools,	\$18.00
A. J. Simpson, snowing bridge,	1.75
W. B. Burpee, breaking roads,	1.20
D. E. Burbank, goods for A. P. Gitchel,	7.63
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	\$28.58

*Roads and Bridges.*

Paid W. H. Sargent, work and lumber, Beaver-Dam Bridge,	\$4.62
F. A. Shepard, work on road,	2.50
Jacob Waldron, " "	.75
J. G. Simpson, " "	11.10
O. T. Whittier, plank for bridge,	14.47
F. L. Burbank, lumber for bridges,	6.95
A. J. Simpson, work on road,	3.00
John Kilborn, " "	4.00
A. S. Burbank, " "	4.00
Matthew Macurdy, " "	1.00
A. P. Kilborn, " "	.75
Rice Corser, " "	4.00
C. S. Danforth, " "	3.75
Freeman Corser, " "	3.00
James F. Sanborn, " "	3.00
Phineas Flanders, " "	2.25
John Kilborn, Jr., " "	1.00
A. D. Page, " "	.75
Wm. D. Call, " "	14.50
Wm. D. Call, building railing, and iron,	3.23
Little Burbank, work on bridge,	2.00
W. T. Libbee, " "	2.50
H. P. Corser, work on road,	2.25
James Dodge, " "	2.00
C. B. Little, " "	1.00
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	\$98.37

*Support of Paupers.*

Paid P. B. Putney, goods delivered to Wm. T. Libbee,	\$10.00
C. H. Bacon, support of Rachel Carter,	9.75

R. C. Marsh, nursing M. G. Holmes' child,	5.00
John Allen, board of Hephzibah Allen,	5.62
Jacob Chase, board of Moses Sawyer,	20.00
John Greenough, goods for Luke Call,	2.00
Mary French, board of Mrs. A. P. Gitchel and child,	10.00
C. H. Bacon, board of Rachel Carter,	10.00
D. A. Macurdy, goods for Luke Call,	26.22
" " " " David Heath,	4.99
" " cloth for P. Eastman and C. Dow,	5.54
" " goods delivered A. P. Gitchel,	12.69
D. E. Burbank, " " David Heath,	4.00
" " " " Hiram Thompson,	23.67
D. C. Eastman, board of P. Eastman and C. Dow,	65.00
Jacob Chase, " Moses Sawyer,	12.50
John Huntoon, " Hephzibah Allen,	12.75
Henry Bacon, " Rachel Carter,	11.25
Dr. T. H. Currier, medical attendance, Luke Call,	3.75
" " " " M. C. Eastman,	.50
Dr. M. S. Wilson, " " Rachel Carter,	7.75
Edna A. Noyes, board of Hephzibah Allen,	13.92
Jacob Chase, boots and clothing, M. Sawyer,	5.25
E. L. York, cloth and clothing, Eastman and Dow,	5.96
" " " " M. C. Eastman,	2.00
David Marsh, boots for C. Dow,	2.50
Jacob Chase, board of M. Sawyer and wife,	10.00
Sundry pauper bills,	1.81
D. A. Eastman, making clothes, Eastman and Dow,	3.74
D. C. Eastman, board of M. C. Eastman,	65.00
D. E. Burbank, cloth and trimmings, M. Sawyer,	5.77
" " " " M. Eastman,	5.01
Jacob Chase, cloth and clothing for M. Sawyer,	10.00
D. C. Eastman, board of P. Eastman and C. Dow,	58.37
Jacob Chase, support of M. Sawyer and wife,	15.00
Dr. N. H. Arey, medical attendance, P. Eastman,	1.88
" " " " H. Thompson's	
family,	16.00
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	\$485.19

*Miscellaneous.*

Paid stationery sundry times,	\$4.86
John G. Simpson, notifying town officers,	4.00



S. G. Noyes, printing by-laws and blank receipts,	3.50
D. A. Macurdy, board of selectmen,	2.00
H. P. Rolfe, legal advice,	3.00
D. E. Burbank, for nails,	.20
“ “ cash paid out for stationery,	1.25
“ “ services town clerk,	11.41
Selectmen's expenses sundry times,	10.23
Daniel Adams, digging graves,	10.25
“ “ care town house and washing hearse,	1.50
F. S. Putney, shingling town house,	28.00
G. Little, horse hire and car fare,	11.65
M. C. Stevens, postage stamps,	.60
D. E. Burbank, selectmen's expenses,	1.25
J. B. Chase, repairing hearse,	.20
J. D. Stackpole, digging graves,	1.50
Atherton Sweatt, services town clerk,	1.40
“ “ “ liquor agent,	26.25
Wm. D. Call, horse hire when out of town on town business,	3.83
A. J. Simpson, selectmen's expenses,	7.00
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	\$133.88

*Nonresident Highway Taxes worked.*

Paid Wm. H. Moulton,	\$ .66
Daniel Jones,	.47
Albert Holmes,	1.69
J. F. Tufts' heirs,	1.88
Joseph Barnard,	18.39
Wm. B. Corser,	.38
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	\$23.47

*School Money.*

Paid A. J. Simpson, District No. 1,	\$66.00
J. G. Simpson, “ 2,	50.00
Edward Buxton, “ 3,	102.00
Enos M. Sweatt, “ 4,	53.00
Wm. Clough, “ 5,	35.00
George W. Stone, “ 6,	80.00
Wm. D. George, “ 7,	49.00
C. S. Pillsbury, “ 8,	105.00

Paid Horace Simpson, District No. 9,	104.00
Charles H. Colby, " 10,	6.00

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\$650.00

*School-House Tax.*

Paid H. F. Stone, District No. 4,	\$8.82
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*N. H. Asylum for the Insane.*

Paid Moses Sawyer and Ann M. Carter,	\$137.05
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*State Tax.*

Paid State Treasurer, State tax,	\$229.60
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*County Tax.*

Paid County Treasurer, county tax,	\$534.37
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*Abatement on Taxes.*

Paid D. E. Burbank, on collection of 1861,	\$6.32
Thomas Kilborn, " 1862,	10.20
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	\$16.52

*Collector's Services.*

Paid D. E. Burbank, collector's services, 1862,	\$5.00
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*Selectmen's Services.*

Paid George Little, services as selectman, overseer of the poor, and treasurer,	\$68.00
Wm. D. Call, services as selectman and overseer of the poor,	43.00
David A. Macurdy, services as selectman and over- seer of the poor,	14.50
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	\$125.50

*Volunteers' Bounty.*

Paid thirty-three volunteers,	\$3,340.00
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*State Aid.*

Paid twenty-three families of volunteers,	\$949.31
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*Recapitulation.*

Outstanding bills,	\$28.58
Roads and bridges,	98.37
Support of paupers,	485.19
Miscellaneous expenses,	133.88
Nonresident highway taxes,	23.47
School money,	650.00
School-house tax,	8.82
N. H. Asylum for the Insane,	137.05
State tax,	229.60
County tax,	534.37
Abatement of taxes,	16.52
Collector's services,	5.00
Selectmen's services,	125.50
Bounties to volunteers,	3,340.00
State aid, families of volunteers,	949.31
Cash in the hands of treasurer,	3.35
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	6,769.01

*Financial condition of the Town, March 1, 1863.*

The town is indebted on notes as follows :

Feb. 25, 1861, Benjamin Smith,	\$200.00
" 20, 1862, Isaiah Livingston,	125.00
Apr. 25, " S. B. Little,	100.00
Aug. 18, " S. B. Little,	300.00
Sept. 13, " George Little,	200.00
" 26, " John Sanborn,	300.00
" " " John Sanborn, Jr.,	80.00
" " " Albe C. Sweatt,	70.00
" " " Mary J. Sweatt,	130.00
" 27, " George Roby,	90.00
" " " H. P. Corser,	100.00
" " " Phebe Noyes,	60.00
Oct. 4, " S. B. Little,	100.00
" 26, " Abner Sargent,	75.00
" " " Willard W. Jones,	100.00
" " " Hannah C. Smith,	100.00
" " " Emeline S. Jeffers,	125.00
" " " Franklin A. Shepard,	900.00
" 25, " Sarah J. Gerrish,	100.00



Oct. 30, 1862, Jesse D. Sanborn,	200.00
Nov. 29, " Wyatt B. Whittier,	100.00
Dec. 17, " Jesse D. Sanborn,	100.00
Feb. 14, " S. B. Little,	85.00
" 26, " S. B. Little,	300.00
Estimated interest on the above notes,	111.00

Total indebtedness of the town, \$4,161.00

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Due from the State, aid to volunteers,	\$856.40
cash and stock in hands of liquor ag't,	74.11
Thomas Kilborn's collection, 1862,	323.59
cash in hands of treasurer,	3.35
	<u>\$1,257.45</u>

Balance against the town, \$2,893.55

GEORGE LITTLE, }  
WM. D. CALL, } *Selectmen of Webster.*

*Report of Atherton Sweatt, Liquor Agent for the Town of Webster, from April 12, 1862, to February 24, 1863.*

Cash received of former agent,	\$ .41
from sales of liquors,	250.11
casks and demijohns,	13.38
	<u>\$263.90</u>

Cash paid for liquors,	\$180.04
the town,	41.25
	<u>\$221.29</u>

Cash on hand,	\$42.61
Liquors on hand, valued at	27.83
Casks and demijohns on hand, valued at	3.67

Whole amount now in hands of agent,	\$74.11
Value of liquors, casks, and demijohns, received of former agent, and accounted for as above,	\$70.00

ATHERTON SWEATT, *Agent.*

Oct. 20, 1862, James D. Eastman	200.00
Nov. 20, " Wyatt H. Whittier	100.00
Dec. 27, " James D. Eastman	100.00
Feb. 24, " R. B. Lusk	82.00
" " S. B. Lusk	200.00
Estimated interest on the above notes	717.00

Total indebtedness of the town 2717.00

Due from the State, and to volunteers  
cash and stock in hands of citizens of  
Thomas Kilgore's collection, 1862, 82.00  
cash in hands of treasurer, 200.00  
282.00

Expenses against the town, 2717.00  
Wm. D. Galt, 1862  
George Little, 1862  
John A. Whittier, 1862

Report of Alberton Sewart, Agent, to the Town of 1862  
from April 12, 1862, to February 24, 1863

Cash received of former agent, 8.41  
from sales of liquor, 256.11  
rents and donations, 18.00  
292.52  
Cash paid for liquor, 218.01  
for the town, 11.00  
229.01

Value of liquor on hand, valued at 412.01  
Casks and donations on hand, valued at 17.88  
394.13  
Whole amount now in hands of agent, 274.11

Value of liquor, casks, and donations received of  
former agent, and accounted for as above, 270.00  
ALBERTON SEWART, Agent

# REPORT

## OF THE

### SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

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FELLOW-CITIZENS: The Superintending School Committee, in accordance with the laws of the State, submit the following as their report for the past year:

Your committee entered upon the discharge of their duties with many misgivings, being fully aware of the responsible and important charge entrusted to them—the superintendence of the common schools.

The schools, for the most part, have been in a good degree successful, but in no case have they come up to the high standard which they should sustain in regard to discipline and instruction.

The failures, wherever they have existed, are not in all cases to be attributed to the want of ability on the part of the teacher, for there are many influences which are felt in the school-room entirely beyond the control of the teacher, the pernicious effects of which are too often laid at his door alone. Many injudicious remarks are made by parents and other members of the district in regard to the teacher and others connected with the management of the school, that tend to cheapen it in the scholars' estimation. It may be but a trifle that is said, but that trifle begets prejudices, magnifying "mole-hills into mountains," and in time nothing will be in harmony; but all the discordant elements in the neighborhood will be in conflict, and the power of the teacher for good, will be in a great measure destroyed.

We would say to the parents and guardians, that, so long as the teacher has the care and management of the school, you should sustain him in the presence of his pupils, and let them know you do sustain him in preserving order by rebuking severely any symptoms of the spirit of insubordination.

If you have any fault to find with the teacher, any worthy of



notice, go to him and in the spirit of kindness lay the matter before him ; reason with him, and if there be wrong, the teacher, an honorable man, he will endeavor to correct it. If, on the other hand, the teacher is condemned in the presence of the pupils, you destroy their confidence in him, thereby depriving them of the benefits of the school, increasing the hardship of the teacher's task, diminishing his influence, and eventually destroying his usefulness. If the teacher is incompetent, adopt the legal course and have him removed. Too much caution can not be exercised by all, in regard to remarks derogatory to the school in public.

**THE SCHOOL-HOUSE.** If any thing demands the attention of the people, if any thing has a claim upon our generous impulses, if any place, aside from home, should be rendered agreeable and attractive, it is the school-room. It is here that the young receive the elements of an education and acquire a taste or distaste for study. Early impressions become fixed and enduring. How important then, that these impressions should be pleasant and correct. Who does not, when school days are past, and surrounded by the busy scenes of life, revert fondly to the scenes of childhood. We would seek to make these scenes as pleasant as possible. The child has no natural respect for hacked, unpainted desks, and disfigured walls ; it is fear of the "rod of correction" only, that restrains him from a free use of the knife upon the already disfigured furniture. As soon as practicable then, let the old, worn out, uninviting, ill-ventilated, and unhealthy buildings *called* school-houses, be superseded by such as will be an honor to the community, and such as will not fail to be a blessing to the rising generation. We would not countenance extravagance by any means, but erect comfortable, respectable buildings. Let them at least, be such as will compare favorably with the modern buildings used to protect our herds from the winter blasts.

**A WORD TO PARENTS IS DEMANDED.** Do the parents in our town take that interest in the cause of education that its importance demands ? If the old adage, "Actions speak louder than words," be true, they do not.

Our registers indicate a commendable number of "visits by parents and others," but by far the greater part are by "others." The school meeting is held at an appointed time, a prudential committee chosen, a teacher employed, examined ; and, if approbated, commences the school. If the teacher is a particular friend or relative of some of the parents, they, perhaps, will visit the school the first part of the term. If the teacher chance to be a stranger to them, the visit is deferred until they become acquainted, or until the closing examination ; and perhaps no visit at all is made. The registers indicate that to be a fact in some districts. Parents, is it right ?

The law requires that the superintending committee shall visit the schools twice during each term, at the commencement and near the close. Let parents do as much and even more. If you can find no other time, call in a few minutes on your way to or from mill, store, post-office or other place of business. Show to your teacher that you are interested in the school, and to your children that you have an eye to their deportment in the school-room as well as beneath the parental roof. Your child would sooner fail in recitation before a stranger than before you. Our experience has taught us that it is one of the best incentives to emulation for a scholar to know that a parent or guardian is to be present at recitation or examination. It not only stimulates the child to greater exertions, but the teacher also. The day laborer upon the farm or in the work-shop is not allowed to conduct the affairs of the same at his pleasure; he has the counsel of his employer in regard to the best methods of performing his duties. Should not our schools be looked after with the same jealous care? Is not the proper training of our youth of as much importance as the proper discharge of the farmer's duty?

**A WORD TO TEACHERS.** New-Hampshire exports granite and men. The one forms monuments to the memory of American Worthies, the other builds empires in the West, and establishes the church and school side by side as monuments to the Old Granite State. Teachers, shall the reputation of your native State be sustained? Shall we advance in all that tends to make a State a true representative of an enlightened, christian republic? Shall we perform our part toward rendering the remark of one of our popular authors, "Education is destined to become the common heritage of all," true?

If so, a great responsibility rests upon you, for the training of immortal minds that are soon to control the intellectual and moral condition of our nation is entrusted to you. Remember that your calling is second only to that of the preacher of the gospel. Martin Luther said, "If I could not be a preacher, I would be a teacher." Ever enter upon the discharge of your duties with a high appreciation of them, for in the exercise of this alone can you fill the true teacher's place. Instill into the minds of your pupils pure moral and religious principles; portray to them the blessings that must follow the right, and the curses that follow the wrong. Incite them to noble deeds and actions, a true love of country, and a due reverence for our chief magistrates. Assure them that the statesmen, orators, and divines of the day are to be selected from among them; that the ardent hopes and fond anticipations of a grateful country will be clustered around them at some future day; that the honor does not consist in merely being a public officer, but in the faithful discharge

of the duties. Impress this upon their minds and they will see more clearly the necessity of acquiring

“ All knowledge, both human and divine,  
Which thought can reach or science can divine.”

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DISTRICT NO. 1. *Summer Term.* Miss Carrie S. Hubbard, of Warner, teacher. Mr. A. J. Simpson, prudential committee. Length of school in weeks, 8; wages of teacher per month, including board, \$12; average attendance of scholars, 18; whole number of scholars, 23; under four years of age, 1.

Lizzie Dodge and Emily S. Burbank were neither absent nor tardy during the term. This was the first effort of the teacher at school-keeping, and if she failed in some respects, it may have been from want of experience. There was a want of order and lack of that *thoroughness* which is so desirable in rudimental instruction.

*Winter term.* Miss Mary E. Scribner, of Salisbury, teacher. Length of school in weeks,  $11\frac{1}{2}$ ; wages of teacher per month, including board, \$14; whole number of scholars, 23; under four years of age, 0.

Sarah D. Sweatt was not absent during the term.

The district was truly fortunate in securing the services of such a teacher as Miss Scribner has shown herself to be. Systematic and energetic in her management of the school, she succeeded in awakening in her pupils a high degree of interest in their studies, and, as a matter of course, the school showed in the examination that the term had been a profitable one. The register shows very few names of parents as visitors in the school-room. This is not as it should be: the welfare of your children demands and should receive a share of your attention in the school-room, thereby encouraging both teacher and scholar in their labors. The school-house in this district is ancient and honorable, but by no means what it should be.

DISTRICT NO. 2. *Summer term.* Miss F. Jennie Huntoon, of Salisbury, teacher. Mr. John G. Simpson, prudential committee. Length of school in weeks, 7; wages of teacher per month, \$6; whole number of scholars, 18; under four years of age, 0; average attendance of scholars, 14.

Owing to some trouble in the school there were but few scholars present at the close. Those present showed by good behavior and promptness in recitation, that they had well improved their time. The order of the school was very good, and the progress, considering the shortness of the term, commendable.



*Winter term.* Mr. J. B. Dodge, of Hopkinton, teacher. Length of school in weeks, 6; wages of teacher per month, including board, \$18; whole number of scholars, 16; average attendance, 14.

The teacher was young and inexperienced, and did not seem at home in the school-room; consequently there was not the improvement made that might have been under more favorable circumstances.

DISTRICT NO. 3. *Summer term.* Miss Nancy E. Couch, teacher. Rev. Edward Buxton, prudential committee. Length of school in weeks,  $9\frac{1}{2}$ ; wages of teacher per month, including board, \$16; whole number of scholars, 32; average attendance,  $28\frac{7}{10}$ .

Georgiana Jeffers and Helen Morse were neither absent nor tardy during the term. The school was very quiet and profitable. The teacher has not only experience, but rare qualifications for an instructor of children. Decided and winning in her manners, she governs easily; energetic, systematic, and thorough, she excels in teaching. To your committee, and we doubt not the numerous visitors present, the closing examination was exceedingly gratifying.

*Winter term.* Mr. Joseph Couch, teacher. Length of school in weeks, 11; wages of teacher per month, including board, \$22; whole number of scholars, 33; average attendance, 25.

This term, though much interrupted by the prevalence of the scarlet fever, was in a good degree successful. The management and instruction of the school were very good, and the progress made in the several branches satisfactory. The classes in reading, especially, appeared well. The Fourth and Third Reader classes were very familiar with the rules, so much neglected by teachers in general.

Louisa Burbank, Dixie A. Currie, and Willie W. Jackman, were neither absent nor tardy during the term.

DISTRICT NO. 4. *Summer term.* Miss Susie E. Thomson, of Salisbury, teacher. Mr. E. M. Sweatt, prudential committee. Length of school in weeks, 8; wages of teacher per month, including board, \$10.32; whole number of scholars, 16; average attendance, 12.

Ellen F. Webster, Ira A. Call, Herbert L. Call, and Melvin T. Stone were neither absent nor tardy during the term.

Miss Thompson commenced this school without experience in teaching, yet her efforts to awaken a lively interest among her pupils were attended with a good degree of success; and the advancement made by the several classes would compare well with those under the

charge of more experienced teachers. The classes in geography, especially, for the promptness and distinctness with which their answers were given, deserve notice.

*Winter term.* Miss S. E. Thompson, teacher. Length of school in weeks, 12; wages of teacher per month, including board, \$11.66; whole number of scholars, 16; average attendance, 12.

Some of the classes made fair improvement, but, considering the length of the term and the number of recitations, a higher degree of improvement should have been manifested. There seemed to be a lack of interest on the part of several scholars as shown by the recitations. There are several fine scholars in this district, capable of making more than ordinary progress during a term of twelve weeks.

DISTRICT NO. 5. *Summer term.* Miss Marietta Couch, teacher. Mr. William Clough, prudential committee. Length of school in weeks, 10; wages of teacher per month, including board, \$6; whole number of scholars, 11; average attendance, 9.

Julia R. Clough was neither absent nor tardy during the term. This school was well managed. At the commencement of the term there were indications that it would be a profitable one; the unostentatious but earnest appearance of the teacher in the school-room bespoke for her success. At the closing examination our expectations were fully realized by the promptness and thoroughness that characterized the examination of the several classes. The Fourth and Third Reader classes gave evidence of thorough instruction in enunciation, reading distinctly and with clearness. Penmanship received more attention than in many of our schools, and the improvement made by the most of those attending to it, was worthy of commendation.

*Winter term.* Miss Marietta Couch, teacher. Wages of teacher per month, including board, \$6; length of school in weeks, 11; whole number of scholars, 10; average attendance, 9.

Nothing definite can be said in regard to the improvement made during this term, as your committee made but one visit, the school closing abruptly by reason of the teacher's illness.

Martha A. Sanborn, Julia R. Clough, and M. T. C. Sanborn were neither absent nor tardy during the term.

DISTRICT NO. 6. *Summer term.* Miss Georgie Calef, teacher. Mr. George Stone, prudential committee. Length of school in weeks, 8; wages of teacher per month, including board, \$12; whole number of scholars, 11; average attendance, 9.

Jennie Abbott and Mary F. Sawyer were neither absent nor tardy during the term. This was Miss Calef's first school, and in its management, both government and instruction, she was quite successful. A pleasant school and school-room tended to make her labors both pleasant and profitable. The classes in arithmetic, both written and mental, made good progress, showing by the examination that they had learned not only to *repeat* the rules, but to *apply* them. A class in Colburn's arithmetic exhibited a thorough knowledge of what they had been over, answering promptly and understandingly. The teacher's register was neatly and correctly kept,—what can be said of but few.

*Winter term.* Mr. Cyrus A. Stone, teacher. Length of school in weeks, 10; wages of teacher per month, including board, \$20; whole number of scholars, 15; average attendance, 11½.

Mr. Stone's school closed under very unfavorable circumstances in consequence of the scarlet fever prevailing in the district. At the first visit of your committee, the school appeared to be in a prosperous condition, the scholars quiet and orderly. By reason of the prevailing sickness the school closed one week earlier than it otherwise would have done, thereby giving but a brief period for review, and the number of pupils present at the closing examination being so small that the means of judging of the improvement was very limited. Mr. Stone, in his remarks, says, "It has been the aim of the teacher to impress upon the minds of his pupils the importance of securing a thorough education; to incite them to the improvement of the proper time and means to be employed in obtaining it, and to assist them whenever necessary, thus rendering their pathway of knowledge as pleasant and attractive as possible."

DISTRICT NO. 7. Miss Lizzie M. Buxton, teacher. Mr. William D. George, prudential committee. Length of term, in weeks, 5; wages of teacher per month, including board, \$13; whole number of scholars, 10; average attendance, 9. Martha George and Nancy P. Stevens were neither absent nor tardy during the term.

The Summer term was so short that but very little could be accomplished. The teacher manifested a lively interest in her scholars, and was thorough in her instruction. Some of her scholars, evidently, tried to make the most of their time, and appeared well at the examination.

*Winter term.* Mr. Charles Putnam, teacher. Length of school, in weeks, 7; wages of teacher per month, including board, \$16;



whole number of scholars, 11; average attendance, 10½. Mary George was neither absent nor tardy.

The winter term was also short, but in a good degree profitable. The teacher was faithful, and progress was manifest in the various branches taught. The first class in arithmetic, in spelling, and the class in writing, deserve commendation. The first class in reading were not so familiar with the rules for reading as they ought to have been. The school house in this district deserves a passing remark. Every thing respecting it is on the most economical scale. It occupies almost no space (being nearly over the eddy of Long Pond), and has a great many things very handy. Its ventilation is cheap, but the controlling of it is one of the things not quite so handy. Its play-ground is handy, the *road* in summer and *pond* in winter. Skating is handy, fishing is handy, so much so that it can be carried on along with the studies. Bathing is handy, both immersion and shower. The former can be had at the door, the latter in the house, and some times uncalled for. Music is very cheap and plenty, but not the favorite kind of your committee. True, its transitions from the double bass to the higher tones is natural, but its movement is very uncertain and irregular, and we believe, if depended upon to make accomplished musicians of your children, it will utterly fail, and sure we are, that it has no tendency to fix and rivet the attention of the student while solving a difficult mathematical problem or committing to memory pages of abstract science. It will readily be seen that the things so remarkably handy about this house are better adapted to physical than mental education. If it is wanted for that purpose, we should have no very serious objection to its location, but would advise by all means to have a much better one. If mental education is desired, we would say, get a new house in a better place—almost any where rather than there.

DISTRICT NO. 8. *Summer Term.* Miss Sarah J. Gerrish, teacher. Mr. Charles Pillsbury, prudential committee. Length of school, in weeks, 14; wages of teacher per month, including board, \$16.00; whole number of scholars, 24; average attendance, 20. Adaline T. Little, Charles R. Farmer, George B. Little, and Hiram Tilton, were neither absent nor tardy during the Summer term.

*Winter Term.* Length of school, in weeks, 11; wages of teacher per month, including board, \$20; whole number of scholars, 28; average attendance, 20.

Adaline T. Little and Edwin S. Carpenter were neither absent nor tardy during the Winter term.

Miss Gerrish had charge of the school both sessions. She labored assiduously, sparing no pains to interest and advance her scholars in

their studies. In this she was successful with most of them, particularly the first class in reading, arithmetic and geography. Tardiness and inconstant attendance were too common both terms, but much more so in the winter. More than one third of the scholars were absent half of the term. Parents must realize that to derive any considerable benefit from the school, their children must be punctual and constant in their attendance.

**DISTRICT NO. 9. *Summer Term.*** Miss Lavilla H. Sanborn, teacher. Mr. Horace Simpson, prudential committee. Length of the term in weeks,  $10\frac{1}{2}$ ; wages of teacher per month, including board, \$12; whole number of scholars, 33; average attendance, 30. Georgiana E. Sanborn, Clara E. Putney, and M. Janette Sanborn, were neither absent nor tardy during the term.

Miss Sanborn was in a good degree successful in the management of her school. She gained the good-will of her pupils, and governed by moral suasion, rather than by fear of the rod; the scholars generally behaving with much propriety, and manifesting a lively interest in their studies. The advanced class in Greenleaf's Arithmetic showed that they were familiar with the rules which they had gone over, and excelled in the solution of difficult problems. The scholars sang several pieces, with pleasing effect. A number of compositions and declamations served to add interest to the exercises of the examination. There are several very fine scholars in this district, and they show, by the interest in their studies, that they appreciate the common school. When the parents in this town show as much interest in the schools as the parents in this district do in theirs, we shall hear less about inefficient teachers and poor schools.

*Winter term.* George D. Stackpole, teacher. Length of school in weeks,  $11\frac{3}{4}$ ; wages of teacher per month, including board, \$22.83; whole number of scholars, 38; average attendance, 33.

The winter term was engaged by Mr. G. D. Stackpole, but, owing to sickness, he was not able to commence at the time appointed, and the school was opened by Miss Sanborn, the teacher of the summer term, who continued in the charge of the school for two weeks, at which time Mr. Stackpole had so far regained his health as to be able to assume the control of the school. The improvement of the school was somewhat retarded by the change of teachers; for, in school, as elsewhere, "new lords make new laws." The order of the school under the charge of Mr. Stackpole was good, and the improvement in the reading exercises was commendable. The class reading in the Fourth Reader did unusually well. The class in Physiology showed that they had studied hard, and had attained a thorough knowledge of the subjects to which they had given their



attention. In some of the exercises, however, there was a manifest want of interest. The parents continued to show their interest daily in the welfare of the school. The school-house is in need of repairs, and it is to be hoped that those having the control of the matter will see to it, that a more suitable house is provided in which to educate their children.

FRANCIS B. SAWYER,  
JOHN C. PEARSON,  
JOSEPH COUCH, } *S. S. Committee.*

WEBSTER, February 28, 1863.